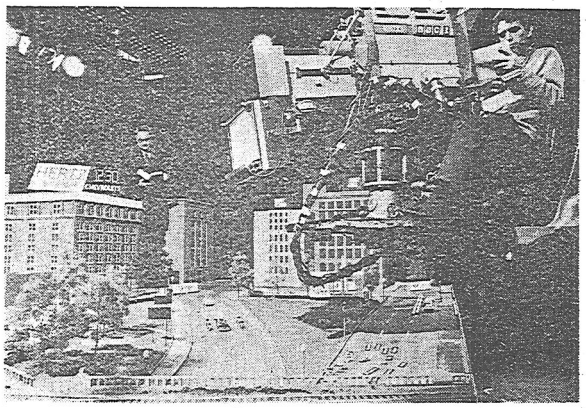


The British Broadcasting Company created for a television discussion of Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment" models of the Dallas site where President Kennedy was killed.

Dear William Manchester:

After his controversial appearance on the television program "Meet the Press" in mid-February, William Manchester agreed with his publisher that he would not make himself available to the press until "The Death of a President" is published in April. He, therefore, has not answered the following questions posed by BOOKS:

—Why, as a historian, did you agree to edit 200 pages of your original manuscript "to protect the prestige of people in public office"?

—You declined Chief Justice Warren's request to read the Warren Report to see that it would be "acceptable to the Kennedys". Do you know if anyone did read it to learn if it would be acceptable to the Kennedys? If yes, who? If someone did indeed read it, what changes, if any, were made?

—Why did the Chief Justice believe that the Report had to be made acceptable to the Kennedys?

—What were your immediate reactions to the Kennedys' requests of last summer that you not publish your book?

—Why did you submit your manuscript for Kennedy approval after Senator Kennedy had advised you that no obstacle would be placed in the way of publication?

—What material did the Kennedys ask Salinger, Sorensen and Schlesinger to omit from their books, which, you said, had been submitted for Kennedy approval?

—The originally planned publication date was Nov. 22, 1968, which would have meant that serialization would have occurred during that autumn's Presidential campaign. Would you have been willing to move publication date to the Spring of '69?

—There seems to be confusion on Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell's representation in your book. Did you interview him face to face, by mail, or how?

Another Non-Fiction Novel?

By MICHAEL AMRINE

(Author of "This Awesome Challenge." He worked in the White House in late 1963 and in early 1964.)

I feel the installments as published in Look magazine indicate that William Manchester is not drawing the right line between gossip, conjecture, and sensationalism on the one hand, and the facts of history on the other. In some cases, where he had what appeared to be new information it turns out astonishingly to be misinformation.

For example, although he looked at the Zapruder film, 75 times he says, apparently he did not once look carefully at the still pictures taken aboard Air Force One that were available a week after the assassination in the Lyndon B. Johnson Library.

He had a rare opportunity to get access to sources and to spend time in a way, it turns out, that the Warren Commission investigators might have envied.

He brought to this the investigative talent of a Joseph McCarthy.

He makes a point about the aides not being at Mr. Johnson's swearing-in. This turns out, by photographic evidence, to be untrue. He slides over this on "Meet the Press" by saying the concensus said something else.

He then has a thing about General Clifton's order of priorities; this turns out to be untrue, and Harper & Row has to make an expensive correction.

Another thing of which he made a great deal concerned the man who did not want to let Mr. Kennedy's body leave the Dallas hospital until it had received the coroner's examination.

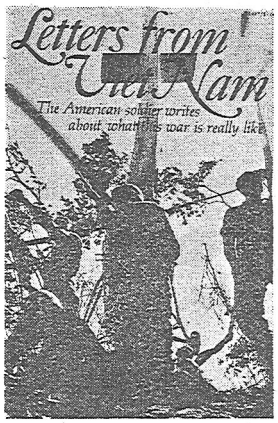
Mr. Manchester makes much of the official's officiousness. This was another case, however, of a man doing his job. The law, as Mr. Manchester says, asks that in the case of a violent death in Dallas the body must not be moved until an examination can be made. As it now develops, in the controversy over the bullets, we wish to God that we had let that "officious" man do his job. We would have had an accurate pathologist's report at an early hour.

'The Firebombing' By James Dickey

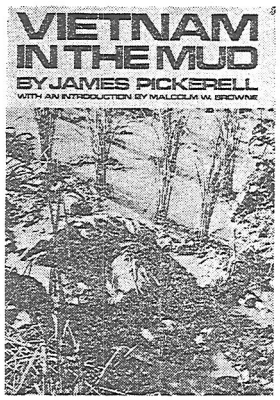
. . . I still have charge—secret charge—
Of the fire developed to cling
To everything: to golf carts and fingernail
Scissors as yet unborn tennis shoes
Grocery baskets toy fire engines
New Buicks stalled by the half-moon
Shining at midnight on crossroads green paint
Of jolly garden tools red Christmas ribbons:

Not atoms, these, but glue inspired
By love of country to burn,
The apotheosis of gelatin.

Behind me having risen the Southern Cross
Set up by chaplains in the Ryukyus—
Orion, Scorpio, the immortal silver
Like the myths of king-
insects at swarming time
One mosquito, dead drunk
On altitude, drones on, far under the engines,
And bites between
The oxygen mask and the eye.
The enemy-colored skin of families
Determines to hold its color
In sleep, as my hand turns whiter
Than ever, clutching the toggle—
The ship shakes bucks
Fire hangs not yet fire
In the air above Beppu
For I am fulfilling



An "anti-morale" raid upon it.
All leashes of dogs
Break under the first bomb, around those
In bed, or late in the public baths: around those
Who inch forward on their hands
Into medicinal waters.
Their heads come up with a roar
Of Chicago fire:
Come up with the carp pond showing
The bathhouse upside down,



Standing stiller to show it more
As I sail artistically over
The resort town followed by farms,
Singing and twisting
All the handles in heaven kicking
The small cattle off their feet
In a red costly blast
Flinging jelly over the walls
As in a chemical war-
fare field demonstration.
With fire of mine like a cat

Holding onto another man's walls,
My hat should crawl on my head
In street cars, thinking of it
The fat on my body should pale.

Gun down
The engines, the eight blades sighing
For the moment when the roofs will connect
Their flames, and make a town burning with all
American fire.

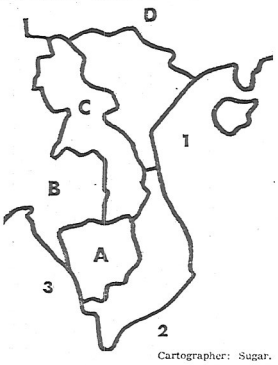
—From "Where Is Vietnam," an anthology of new work by 87 poets, Published by Doubleday Anchor.

Good Evening, Mr. and Mrs. North and South America . . .

The Vietnam War has been reported daily and in depth in the nation's press.

1. What are the names of the countries marked A,B,C,D?
2. What are the names of the bodies of water marked 1,2,3?
3. Where is the Mekong Delta?
4. When did the first U.S. advisor begin advising Saigon?
5. How did General Ky become Premier?
6. What role did "The Father of His Country," Ho Chi Minh, play in the defeat of the French?
7. What is the relation of the NFL to the Vietcong?
8. Who called the Geneva Conference and who were its participants?
9. When did North Vietnam begin aerial bombardment of Saigon?

(So Nhu?)



Cartographer: Sugar.